

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/715,717	TELFER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Hargobind S. Sawhney	2875

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on May 26, 2006.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 8, 10, 12, 14, 18, 20, 23 and 25.
3.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All
  - b)  Some\*
  - c)  None
 of the:
  1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date 7/19/2006.
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

1. The amendment filed on May 26, 2006 has been entered. Accordingly:
  - Claims 4-6, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 19-21 have been cancelled; and
  - Claims 1, 7, 8, 14, 16, 24 and 25 have been amended.
2. On July 19, 2006, the examiner and the attorney, Mr. Donn K. Harms, discussed claims 1 and 8. The examiner informed that the upgraded search revealed some prior arts meeting the limitations of the amended claim 1. The prior arts, including Poon (US Patent No.; 6,305,820 B1) and Lin (US Patent No.; 4,499,755), meet the limitations of the amended claim 1. Therefore the amended independent claim 1 is still rejectable over prior art. The examiner further indicated that cancellation of the amended independent claim 1 and all of its dependent claims is needed in order to place this application in the condition for allowance.

In response, Mr. Harms authorized an examiner's amendment requiring cancellation of the amended claims 1, 7 and 24; and original claims 2, 3 and 22.

A copy of the interview summary is attached herewith.

#### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Donn K. Harms on July 19, 2006.

Cancel claims 1 (amended), claim 7 (amended), claim 24 (amended); and claims 2, 3 and 22.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 23 and 25 are allowed.

The prior art of record, including Huang ('332 B1), Gibboney ('313 B2), Lin (US Patent No.: 5,622,425) and Lanzisera ('147), does not show or suggest the applicant's invention as claimed. Specifically, the prior art of record does not disclose a decorative string light combining:

- a transparent or substantially translucent casing attached to and encasing a substantially transparent or translucent socket assembly as recited in the amended independent Claim 8.
- a third wire communicating between first and second wires; and the third wire communicating electrical power for light emission means as recited in the amended independent Claim 8.

The above-indicated combination, including at least one socket including a substantially transparent or translucent socket assembly further surrounded a translucent or transparent casing, makes this invention unique.

Neither combined nor individual teaching of Huang ('332 B1), Gibboney ('313 B2), Lin (US Patent No.: 5,622,425) and Lanzisera ('147) discloses an illumination device with the combination as detailed above, as claimed by the applicant.

Therefore, each of the amended independent claims 1 and 8 are allowed over prior art.

Claims 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 23 and 25 are necessarily allowed because of their dependency the allowed amended Claim 8.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hargobind S Sawhney whose telephone number is 571 272 2380. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on 571 272 2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

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For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the  
Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HSS  
7/19/2006

  
ALI ALAVI  
PRIMARY EXAMINER